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7 April 1947

**MEMORANDUM FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY,
STATE DEPARTMENT**

Subject: Visa Priority Applications

1. This memorandum is addressed to you for the purpose of seeking your assistance in obtaining visa priorities under the State Department Regulations of December 14 for two individuals who have already made application for immigration visas overseas. Your office is being approached through our intelligence liaison, as the individuals in question are actively involved in intelligence operations and the strictest security must be observed to protect them as intelligence sources and for future intelligence work. The regulations noted above [cited in 11 Federal Register, Page 14611, December 24, 1946] specified in part that first priority after the preference groups of quota immigrants will be given to a category consisting of the following:

"* * * * (b) Aliens who have been recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as persons whose admission is highly desirable in the national interest provided that such cases have been approved by all appropriate Governmental agencies." We are informed that the basis for such recommendation may be outstanding past services for the United States in war-time, or future usefulness to this country.

2. We believe that the cases outlined below fit both these qualifications. We have been informed by the Assistant

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Chief of the Visa Division of the Department of State that no regular channels have been established to handle such applications to obtain the proper recommendation by the Joint Chiefs. The backgrounds and records of the individuals are outlined briefly below. Full details are filed under a SECRET classification in this office, and will be made available to those officials who necessarily must be familiar with them to grant the desired priority.

CASE 1: A was a prominent Hungarian newspaperman who, prior to the war, was widely known for his personal stand against communism and facism expressed in his writings based on his religious beliefs. At the start of the war, he was an accredited Hungarian press representative in Italy, with an established reputation for integrity and democratic ideals. In the spring of 1944, he was recruited in Rome for the Office of Strategic Services, after careful investigation. This investigation confirmed his reputation and listed high recommendations from impeccable sources. Through his established contacts and unusual ability, he established himself as one of the outstanding contributors to U.S. intelligence during the war. His continued activities in post-war Europe have confirmed our opinion both as to his integrity and ideals and his superior qualifications for intelligence work. He is

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now stateless, and his Hungarian passport has been cancelled. He has applied in Italy for an American visa, and has been granted a number on the Hungarian quota, while his wife and children have been granted numbers on the German quota. According to present information, the actual visa would not be granted in the normal course of affairs in less than three to four years. If forced, by deportation or otherwise, to return to his native country, his life would be forfeit. On the other hand, it is our considered opinion that his character and demonstrated democratic ideals fully qualify him as a desirable United States citizen, while his qualifications, background and experience fit him uniquely for the future U.S. intelligence work which this agency and the subject desire to continue.

CASE 2: B is an Austrian citizen whose father was an Austrian Army officer, and whose mother was an American. He left Austria in 1937 about the time of the Anschluss. He worked in Paris with an American cousin and, at the outbreak of the war, joined the French Foreign Legion and served as a private from December 1939 to October 1940. After the landings in North Africa, he

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joined the British Army for the period from April through June, 1943, and, on the strength of his unusual language abilities and background, was recruited by the Office of Strategic Services at the end of June in 1943. He served most ably with OSS in Italy, and after the German surrender continued to serve with U.S. intelligence agencies in Austria. He has developed into one of the outstanding intelligence contributors and his activities on behalf of the United States have rendered his situation most difficult, and personally dangerous in the event of his return to his true name and circumstances. He has applied for an Austrian visa and as yet no action has been taken, but we have been informed that under normal circumstances a minimum of four years will probably pass before the visa is granted. His background, training, experience, and particularly his language qualifications, fit him admirably for future intelligence work, and it is planned to give him further training in this country and use him in one of a number of capacities. In our opinion, his moral character and democratic beliefs qualify him fully

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for naturalization as a United States citizen.

3. As stated above, we feel both of these cases merit the recommendation which is necessary to inclusion in the priority category. We wish strongly to emphasize our opinion that these are outstanding individuals far above the average calibre encountered in intelligence work, both from a personal standpoint and from their fitness for U.S. intelligence work, and our belief that their admission is highly desirable in the national interest within the meaning of the above-quoted State Department regulations. Our inability to proceed without assistance from the Department of State has led us to this reference to your office. There is considerable urgency, particularly in Case 1 above, and this office would greatly appreciate any information you can afford on what further steps we should take to obtain the desired recommendation.

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